

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 17, 22, and 27 have been amended and claim 2 has been canceled. As such, claims 1, 3-14, 17-25, 27, and 28 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 17, 22, and 27 stand objected to for various informalities. Applicants have amended claims 17, 22, and 27 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants respectfully request that the objection of claims 17, 22, and 27 be withdrawn.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,597,727 to Phillips et al. ("Phillips"). Although not specifically listed in the §103 rejection, it appears that claims 3-7 are also considered under this rejection. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the features of claim 2 which has been indicated as allowable over the art of record. Applicants submit that amended claim 1 distinguishes over the combination of Zhou and Phillips and request that the §103 rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 3-7 are either directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1 and should distinguish over the combination of Zhou and Phillips for at least the same reasons as stated above. Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of claims 3-7 be withdrawn.

Claims 8-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Zhou and Phillips in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,542,562 to Ostberg et al. ("Ostberg"). Claims 8-12 are either directly or indirectly dependent from claim 1 and should distinguish over the combination of Zhou and Phillips for at least the same reasons as stated above. Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of claims 8-12 be withdrawn.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

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